

Najib: No point building libraries if people don't care to read

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KUALA LUMPUR: There is no point in building more libraries or providing more tax relief for books if most Malaysians do not care to read, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Deputy Prime Minister reckoned that people do not read because there are more books in English and the medium of instruction in schools had switched to Malay.

"This is the problem, especially with the Malay kids.

"Practically all the books are in English, and since their ability to read in English is somewhat limited they feel it would be an uphill task to understand them," he said in an interview with *The Star*.

He added that the situation was made worse by teachers who are "products of the Malay medium (who) cannot teach English literature."

"So, before we can introduce literature, we need to train the teachers and wait for the next generation of teachers who have gone through

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DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK

the system and are proficient in English," he said.

Najib also shared his views on the effectiveness of reading campaigns, and gave insights into his personal reading tastes as well as the books on or by people who inspire and motivate him.

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Full interview with the DPM